



June 2014—Special Printed Edition

NEWSLETTER



Washington State FSA

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www.fsa.usda.gov/wa

County office contact information can be found at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sto_dir.pdf

OR
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NOTICE: Due to budget constraints, FSA publishes an electronic newsletter the first week of each month. This is a special edition paper newsletter. To sign up for electronic newsletters, contact your local county office or subscribe to receive e-mail updates by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/ and click on "Sign up for updates" in the Stay Connected box.

Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs Necessitate Decisions

The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs are new programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. ARC/PLC provides revenue and price loss payments to eligible producers for the 2014 through 2018 crop years.

FSA is planning for a late 2014 or early 2015 sign-up for ARC and PLC. If you grow an eligible crop, you will have a **one-time** choice between three options. These are:

- Agriculture Risk Coverage County Coverage (ARC-CO) provides revenue loss coverage at the county level for eligible crops.
- Agriculture Risk Coverage-Individual Coverage (ARC-IC) provides revenue loss coverage at the farm level for all acreage devoted to eligible crops across all of your farms enrolled in ARC-IC.
- Price Loss Coverage (PLC) provides price loss coverage for eligible crops on a farm. It does not cover revenue losses.

Whichever option you choose, it will be the program you are in for the life of the Farm Bill. Failure to make a decision during sign-up will result in a default designation of PLC, and it will eliminate any 2014 payment. You may choose different options for different farms.

Eligible crops include: barley, corn, grain sorghum, oats, oilseeds (canola, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, sunflower seed), peanuts, pulse crops (dry peas, lentils, large/small garbanzo beans), long/medium grain rice, soybeans and wheat.

Base acres in effect on September 30, 2013 will be in effect for the ARC and PLC programs. You will have a **one-time** decision to reallocate base acres on your farms, but not increase the base acres. Re-allocation may be made using an average of the planted and considered planted acreage of all eligible crops on the farms during the 2009 – 2012 crop years. Partial retention or partial reallocation of bases is not permissible.

Payments under the PLC program will be based on yields used for the previous counter-cyclical program or you may update your yields for the PLC program. This is a **one-time** opportunity to update yields.

The 2014 farm structure will be used for base and yield updates as well as ARC and PLC elections. August 1 will be the deadline to request a farm reconstitution **locking in the farm structure** for your ARC-CO/ARC-IC/PLC choice for the life of the Farm Bill.

Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) is a county level revenue or yield based insurance optional endorsement that covers a portion of losses not covered by the same crop's underlying crop insurance policy (obtained through a crop insurance

agent). Loss payments will be payable once a 14 percent loss has occurred in the county, and individual payments will depend upon coverage levels selected by producers. Producers may participate in SCO when they select Price Loss Coverage (PLC) administered by FSA. Participation is not allowed if a producer selects the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) through FSA.

USDA has awarded funding to universities and extension to develop online tools and training materials to assist you in making educated choices between the new programs. The online tools will allow you to use data unique to your specific farming operations to test a variety of financial scenarios before officially signing up for the new program options.

FSA will be providing information about these programs during meetings this fall. It is recommended that you watch for and take advantage of opportunities to learn more about the programs before making your decisions.

Below is the current timeline for implementing ARC and PLC. It is subject to change.

- This summer all farmers and ranchers with base acres will receive a letter from FSA notifying you of certain provisions affecting base acres and yields.
- In the fall, farm owners will receive a one-time opportunity to reallocate their base acres for the life of this Farm Bill (2018). The reallocation would be based on 2009 through 2012 plantings. At this time, owners will also be able to update yields for PLC, based on 90 percent of the farm's 2008 through 2012 average yield per planted acre.
- FSA is planning for a late 2014 or early 2015 sign-up for ARC and PLC. This is a one-time choice for the life of the Farm Bill. Failure to make a decision during this time will result in a default designation of PLC, and it will eliminate any 2014 payment.

More information about these programs and other changes as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill can be found on the FSA website www.fsa.usda.gov/wa.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Signup Options for 2014

FSA is accepting applications for Continuous CRP. Under continuous sign-up authority, environmentally sensitive land can be enrolled in CRP at any time with contracts of up to 10 to 15 years in duration. Offers are not subject to competitive bidding. Contracts are for specific eligible practices such as riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, filter strips and more. Continuous CRP includes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program.

In lieu of a general sign-up this year, USDA will allow producers with general CRP contracts

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expiring this September to extend contracts for one year. This option is only available for land that has been in CRP less than 15 years. Submit an application by August 8, 2014.

If you have land enrolled through general sign-up for more than five years, you may opt-out of the program if certain other conditions are met. This option includes many restrictions and you are encouraged to contact your county office for more information. A separate signup period has yet to be announced.

If you are a retiring CRP owner or operator, the Transition Incentives Program (TIP) provides two additional years of CRP payments if you agree to sell, or have a contract to sell, or agree to lease long-term (at least 5 years) the land enrolled in an expiring CRP contract to a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher. Enrollment in TIP is on a continuous basis until the program funds are exhausted.

FSA and partner agencies developed an online brochure to assist expiring CRP contract holders understand the options of taking land out of CRP. The brochure may be found at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/crp_takeout.pdf

Drought Activates Emergency Loans and Livestock Forage Disaster Program

A Secretarial Disaster Declaration has been issued due to drought in Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Okanogan and Walla Walla counties. This triggers the availability of FSA emergency loans. The loans are low interest, currently 3.125% percent, with payment terms of up to 40 years.

Counties adjacent to the designated counties are considered contiguous. Producers in the following counties are also eligible for emergency loans: Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, King, Kittitas, Klickitat, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Whitman and Yakima counties.

Severe drought conditions in the nine primary designated counties for 8 consecutive weeks during the established livestock grazing period makes the **Livestock Forage Program (LFP)** available in those counties. The program makes payments if you have suffered grazing losses due to the drought and meet program eligibility requirements. Contact your local FSA office for more information about disaster relief programs.

Farm Service Agency Seeks Nominees for County Committees

FSA is looking for farmers and ranchers willing to represent your peers on the agency’s county committees. All county FSA offices will accept nominations through **August 1, 2014**. Candidates

must live or farm in the county’s local administrative area (LAAs) being represented and must be eligible to vote in the county election. If you are interested in nominating a candidate or being a candidate, contact your local FSA office or visit the website www.fsa.usda.gov/wa for more information or to obtain a nomination form.

FSA will hold elections in late fall and committee members will take office on January 1, 2015.

Stay Informed—Subscribe to Receive Electronic Farm Service Agency Newsletters

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices have moved to a paperless news distribution system. You may enroll in the *GovDelivery* system, which provides notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email helps conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars. You can subscribe to receive free email updates by going to www.fsa.usda.gov/ and click on “Sign up for updates” in the Stay Connected box.

DATES TO REMEMBER	
July 15, 2014	2014 crop acreage reporting deadline for all programs
July 15, 2014	NAP and ACRE production reporting deadline for 2013 crops
Aug. 1, 2014	Farm reconstitution deadline
Aug. 1, 2014	Deadline to submit nominations for county committee elections
Aug. 29, 2014	SURE signup ends for 2012 crop losses occurring prior to Oct. 1, 2011
Sept. 1, 2014	2015 NAP application closing date for artichokes, aquaculture, beets (stecklings), cabbage (seed or fresh), canola, carrots (seed), cauliflower (seed or fresh), Christmas trees, floriculture, mushrooms, onions (seed, fresh, process), rapeseed, rutabaga (seed, fresh), turf grass sod, turnips (seed or fresh), and any other fall planted crops not included in other closing dates. See website: www.fsa.usda.gov/wa